Role of SEBI in protecting interests of retails investors

3792. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the role of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in ensuring that the interests of numerous retail investors are protected;

(b) how does SEBI ensure that there is a level playing field for the retail investors in the stock market;

(c) whether SEBI had received complaints of insider trading during the last six months and if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(d) how many companies have been prosecuted for this activity in the recent past?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is mandated under SEBI Act 1992 to protect the interest of investors, which *inter-alia* includes the protection of interests of retail investors. SEBI takes steps to keep SEBI (DIP) the guidelines in the tune with market developments so that the interests of investors are adequately protected.

(c) and (d) During the period November 1, 2007 to April 26, 2008, SEBI has received complaints alleging insider trading pertaining to the shares of five companies.

The SEBI Act, 1992 and the SEBI (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations, 1992 have provisions aimed at to reducing the incidence of insider trading and to empower SEBI to take appropriate enforcement action against the entities engaged in insider trading. So far SEBI has field 13 prosecution cases against 115 entities/persons for violation of SEBI ((Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations 1992.

Appointment in PSUs

3793. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that key appointments in Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) are held up due to interference of their administrative Ministries;

(b) if so, the details of the vacancies in each of the PSUs at present alongwith the reasons for not filling up of those vacancies;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Public Enterprise Selection Board (PESB) had already recommended candidates of those vacancies; and

(d) if so, the specific reasons for not appointing those selected persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA): (a) and (b) As per available information, 52 board level posts (14 posts of Chief Executive and 38 posts of Functional Directors) are vacant in the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs). The reasons for the above vacancies include, sudden vacancies, time taken in selections, time taken in obtaining vigilance clearance/approval of competent authority for appointment to such posts, delay in taking over of charge by the appointee, court cases, etc.